SUBSTITUTE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the current Abstract and replace it with the following new Abstract:

ABSTRACT

Methods and systems are provided for planning demand for a configurable product in a managed supply chain. In one implement, a method is provided in which the configurable product has a product dependent characteristic and a product independent characteristic. A data storage system may store data with respect to a plurality of product independent characteristics and product dependent characteristics. A selection of a product to be represented and a particular characteristic to be represented are received. A planning parameter is also selected. Data is loaded from the data storage system into a buffer. A calculation is performed on the data with respect to the product dependent characteristics and the product independent characteristics. A hierarchy of the represented data is modeled in accordance with the planning parameter and used to administer the buffered data.